

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /075 W

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R 261625Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3717

INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0182

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AG, FR

SUBJ: SAHARA: MISSING FRENCH CITIZENS

1. ALGERIAN PRESS JANUARY 24 CARRIES TEXT OF INTERVIEW BETWEEN ALGERIANS MAKING FILM ON SAHARA AND JEAN PAUL DIEF AND PIERRE SEGUIRO, TWO FRENCH COOPERANTS CAPTURED DECEMBER 26 IN SAHARA BY POLISARIO. INTERVIEW GIVES STRAIGHT ACCOUNT OF CAPTURE AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED AND MAKES NO EFFORT TO PROTRAY COOPERANTS AS HAVING BEEN ON MILITARY BUSINESS. SEGUIROT REPORTED AS SAYING THAT POLISARIO IS SAHRAOUI PEOPLE AND THAT SPAIN, "A SO-CALLED CIVILIZED COUNTRY," HAD LEFT NOTHING IN SAHARA BUT SAND UPON DEPART FROM COLONY. SEGUIRO ALSO QUOTED AS NOTING THAT SAHARA PROBLEM NOT WELL KNOWN IN FRANCE BUT THAT POSITION OF FRENCH GOVERNMENT ON QUESTION SURPRISED HIM GREATLY.

2. FRENCH MINISTER COUSELOR TOLD CHARGE JAN 26 THAT FRENCH WERE CONTINUING TO PRESS ALGERIANS FOR INFORMATION CONCEFNING SEVEN FRENCH CITIZENS MISSING IN SAHARA OR SOUTHERN MOROCCO. MESSAGE TO FONMIN BOUTEFLIKA FROM FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES DELIVERED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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FON MINISTRY RECENTLY HAD BEEN ON THIS PROBLEM, HE

SAID. MINISTER COUNSELOR THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT
ONLY DIEF AND SEGUIRO STILL ALIVE BUT SAID THAT HIS
EMBASSY WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR INFORMATION ON
ALL SEVEN ALL THE SAME.
LYNE

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